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NCC's Enforcement Powers Under the Copyright Act (2022)

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In 2023, the new Copyright Act, 2022 came into force, repealing the previous statute (Cap C28 LFN, 2004) and replacing it with a modernised law aimed at protecting creative works in the digital and online environment.

The Act expands the mandate and powers of the NCC to regulate, administer, and enforce copyright law comprehensively across Nigeria.

Relevant Provisions of the Act:

- The Act criminalises unauthorised reproduction, distribution, public performance, and making available online of copyrighted works for commercial purposes.
- It also outlaws circumvention of technological protection measures (TPMs), meaning it is an offence to bypass digital protections (e.g. encryption, access controls) attached to works.
- The Act empowers NCC inspectors with the same powers as police officers under the Police Act: they may enter premises (with or without warrant, in certain circumstances), search, seize pirated or infringing materials and devices, arrest suspects, and initiate prosecution.

- For online content, the Act includes “notice-and-takedown” provisions enabling copyright owners to notify service providers (e.g. ISPs, digital platforms) to disable access to infringing content; also enabling NCC to regulate online distribution channels.

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